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TO: California Physicians and Acute Care Hospitals

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Ordering Influenza Vaccine for the 2007-2008 Season: Thimerosal-Free
Vaccine for Young Children and Pregnant Women

Dear Colleague:

Pre-booking for certain influenza vaccine manufacturers and distributors begins in January. While the actual date and process may vary from distributor to distributor, we strongly urge you to call your distributor or manufacturer in January. The following webpage has information on distributors and manufacturers from the current flu season: <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/clinical/immunizationres/ordering.html>.

Providers participating in the VFC Program will be able to order VFC influenza vaccine in the fall of 2007.

When pre-booking influenza vaccine, make sure you order sufficient vaccine for your patients that are affected by the requirements of recent California legislation, *The Mercury Free Act of 2004*, Chapter 837, Statutes of 2004 (AB 2943, Pavley). *The Mercury Free Act of 2004* forbids the administration of vaccines containing more than trace thimerosal preservative to children under three years of age and pregnant women. This means that these patients must receive vaccine packaged in single-dose vials or syringes.

A) The following influenza vaccine meets the State law's mercury limit and is currently licensed for use in children younger than 3 years old:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone® No Preservative: Pediatric Dose (Children 6-35 months of age)	prefilled 0.25 mL unit dose syringes

B) The following influenza vaccines meet the State's law's mercury limit and may be given to pregnant women*:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
GlaxoSmithKline	Fluarix®	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes
Novartis	Fluvirin® Preservative-free	prefilled 0.5 mL syringes
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone® No Preservative	0.5 mL unit dose vial
Sanofi Pasteur Inc	Fluzone® No Preservative	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose syringes

**Check with manufacturer or distributor regarding availability in 2007-2008 season*

The following influenza vaccine meets the State law's mercury limit and may be approved for use by FDA during the 2007-2008 influenza season in children as young as 1 year of age:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Packaged as</u>
MedImmune Inc	FluMist®	prefilled 0.5 mL unit dose nasal sprayer

FluMist® is not indicated for use in pregnant women

Additional Resources

The text of the new Mercury Free Act of 2004, California Health and Safety Code 124172 is available at

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=hsc&group=124001-125000&file=124172>

For additional questions about this topic, please contact either:

1) Your local health department's immunization program, which is listed at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/depts.htm> under "Local Health Department Listing", or

2) Nisha Gandhi at DHS Immunization Branch, telephone (510) 620-3732.

cc: Immunization Branch Field Representatives
Local Health Department Immunization Coordinators
Local Health Department Health Officers